MARVEL
1
WEB OF VENOM
THE GOOD SON
THOMPSON
NEVES
JUNIOR
GEDEON
BEREDO

RECENTLY THE SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY UNLEASHED A WAVE OF TERROR ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS THE MAD SYMBIOTE CARNAGE, SEARCHING FOR ANYONE WITH SYMBIOTE DNA LOCKED WITHIN THEIR SPINES. EDDIE BROCK—THE LETHAL PROTECTOR KNOWN AS VENOM—AND HIS SON, DYLAN, WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT CARNAGE, BUT NOT BEFORE EDDIE UNLOCKED THE SYMBIOTE GOD CALLED KNULL FROM HIS CAGE.

WITH KNULL ON HIS WAY TO EARTH, EDDIE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND HAS LEFT DYLAN WITH NORMIE OSBORN'S PARENTS, HARRY OSBORN AND LIZ ALLAN, WHILE HE EMBARKS ON HIS OWN MISSION.

THE GOOD SON

ZAC THOMPSON WRITER

DIO NEVES PENCILER OREN JUNIOR INKER

RAIN BEREDO COLOR ARTIST VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

PHILIP TAN & JAY DAVID RAMOS COVER ARTISTS

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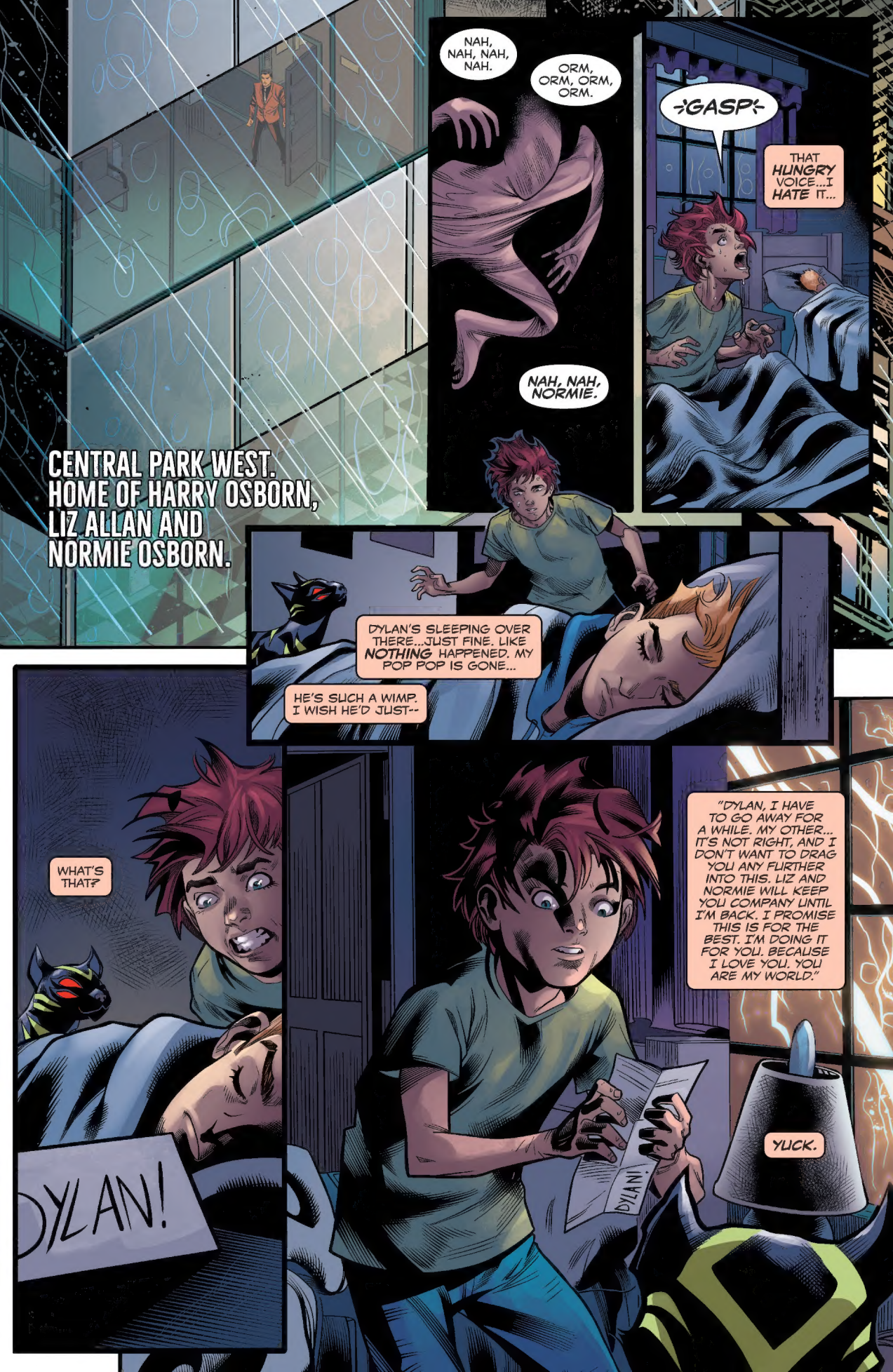
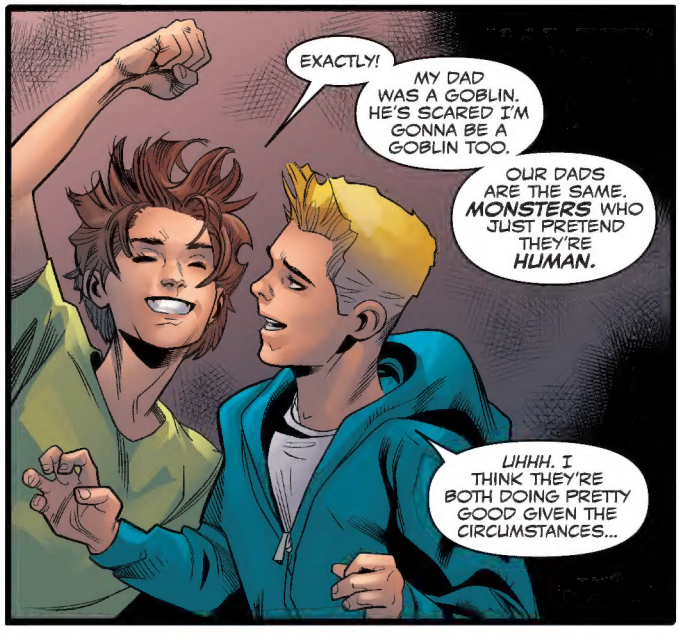

CENTRAL PARK WEST.
HOME OF HARRY OSBORN,
LIZ ALLAN AND
NORMIE OSBORN.
NAH, NAH, NAH, NAH.
ORM, ORM, ORM, ORM.
NAH, NAH, NORMIE.
GASP
THAT HUNGRY VOICE...I HATE IT...
DYLAN'S SLEEPING OVER THERE...JUST FINE. LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED. MY POP POP IS GONE...
HE'S SUCH A WIMP. I WISH HE'D JUST--
WHAT'S THAT?
DYLAN!
"DYLAN, I HAVE TO GO AWAY FOR A WHILE. MY OTHER... IT'S NOT RIGHT, AND I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU ANY FURTHER INTO THIS. LIZ AND NORMIE WILL KEEP YOU COMPANY UNTIL I'M BACK. I PROMISE THIS IS FOR THE BEST. I'M DOING IT FOR YOU. BECAUSE I LOVE YOU. YOU ARE MY WORLD."
DYLAN!
YUCK.

-YAWN-
THE NEXT MORNING.
EDDIE'S...GONE. DISAPPEARED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. ALL HE LEFT ME WAS A STUPID NOTE...*
*WHERE'S EDDIE GOING? READ VENOM #21 FOR THE ANSWER! --DEVIN
AT LEAST WE'VE STILL GOT SLEEPER.
IT'LL KEEP US SAFE.
YEAH...BUT WHY WOULD EDDIE JUST UP AND LEAVE LIKE THAT? HE'S TREATING ME LIKE A KID...I'M ALREADY A TEENAGER.
MY MOM AND DAD DON'T TRUST ME EITHER.
THEY MAKE ME WEAR A TRACKER. TOOK ME OUTTA SCHOOL.
TO BE FAIR, YOU'RE LIKE BARELY DOUBLE DIGITS AND WENT MISSING TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR. DIDN'T YOU BECOME A WEIRD GOBLIN THING?
GOBLIN CHILDE. WASN'T MY FAULT. MY POP POP WAS MADE BAD BY THAT HORRIBLE SYMBIOTE THINGY YOU CALL DAD.
EDDIE MAKES YOU MAD...
IS THAT WHY YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM 'BOUT WHAT YOU DID TO MY POP POP?
RIP RIP
TCH. NO.
I DIDN'T TELL HIM 'CAUSE EDDIE KEPT A SECRET FROM ME.
SO WHY SHOULD I FEEL BAD ABOUT KEEPING ONE FROM HIM?

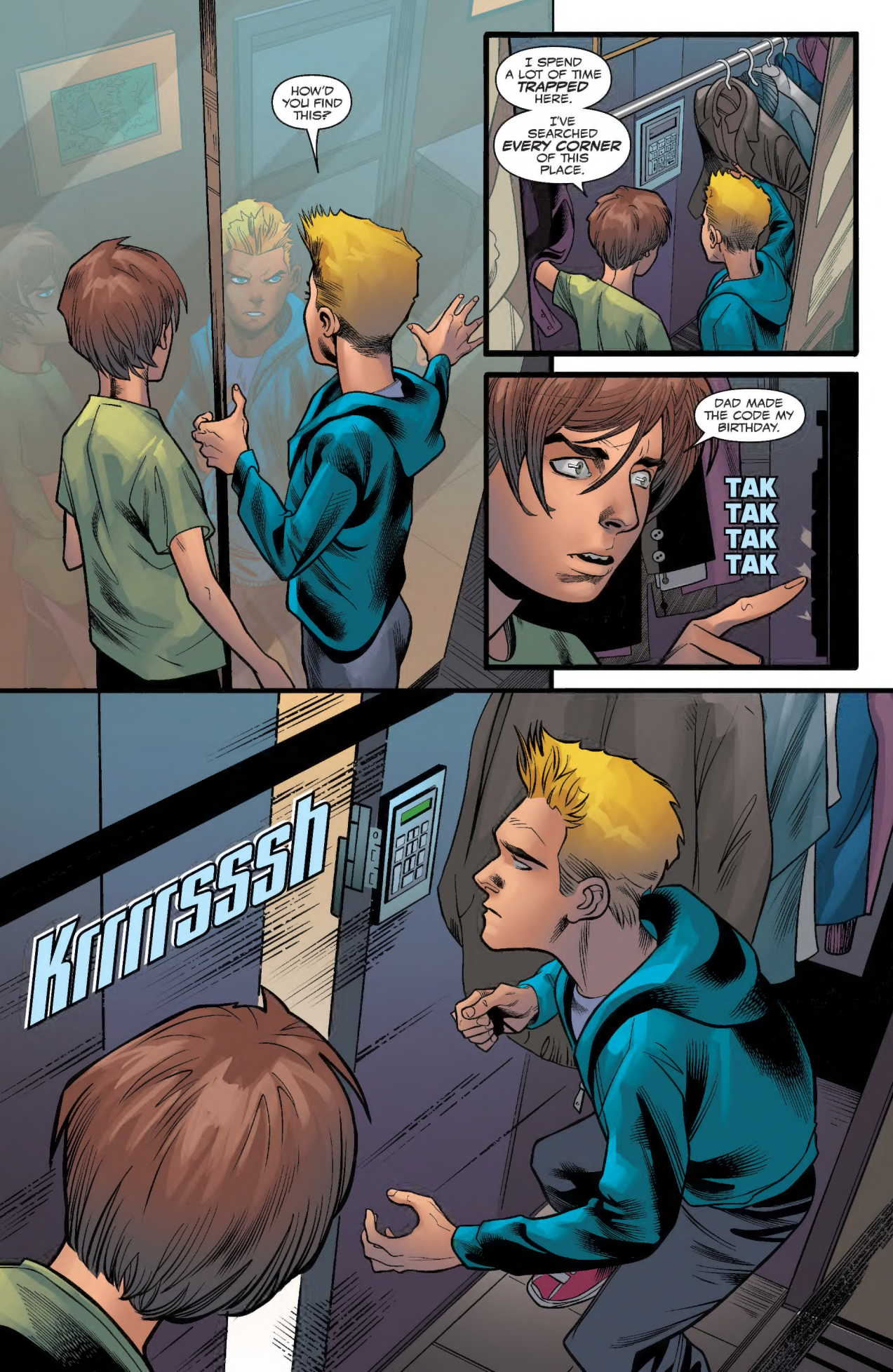
AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH ME AND MY GRANDPA... EVERYONE WANTS TO ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED.
I DON'T FEEL THE SAME. NOT ANYMORE.
MY MOM AND DAD KEEP ME LOCKED UP HERE LIKE I'M A... I JUST HAVE NIGHTMARES.

AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE POWERS ANYMORE.
I HEAR A FREAKING VOICE IN MY HEAD, AND ONLY YOU KNOW ABOUT IT. IF I TOLD ANYONE ELSE...THEY'D JUST THINK I'M A MONSTER.


EXACTLY!
MY DAD WAS A GOBLIN. HE'S SCARED I'M GONNA BE A GOBLIN TOO.
OUR DADS ARE THE SAME. MONSTERS WHO JUST PRETEND THEY'RE HUMAN.
UHHH. I THINK THEY'RE BOTH DOING PRETTY GOOD GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

HARRY STILL CARES ABOUT YOU. HE'S JUST TRYING TO DISTANCE YOU FROM ALL THE CRAP YOUR PSYCHO GRANDPA WHISPERED IN YOUR EARS.
MY GRANDPA ISN'T CRAZY! AND HARRY ISN'T DONE WITH THE GOBLIN. I KNOW IT.
I DUNNO, DUDE...

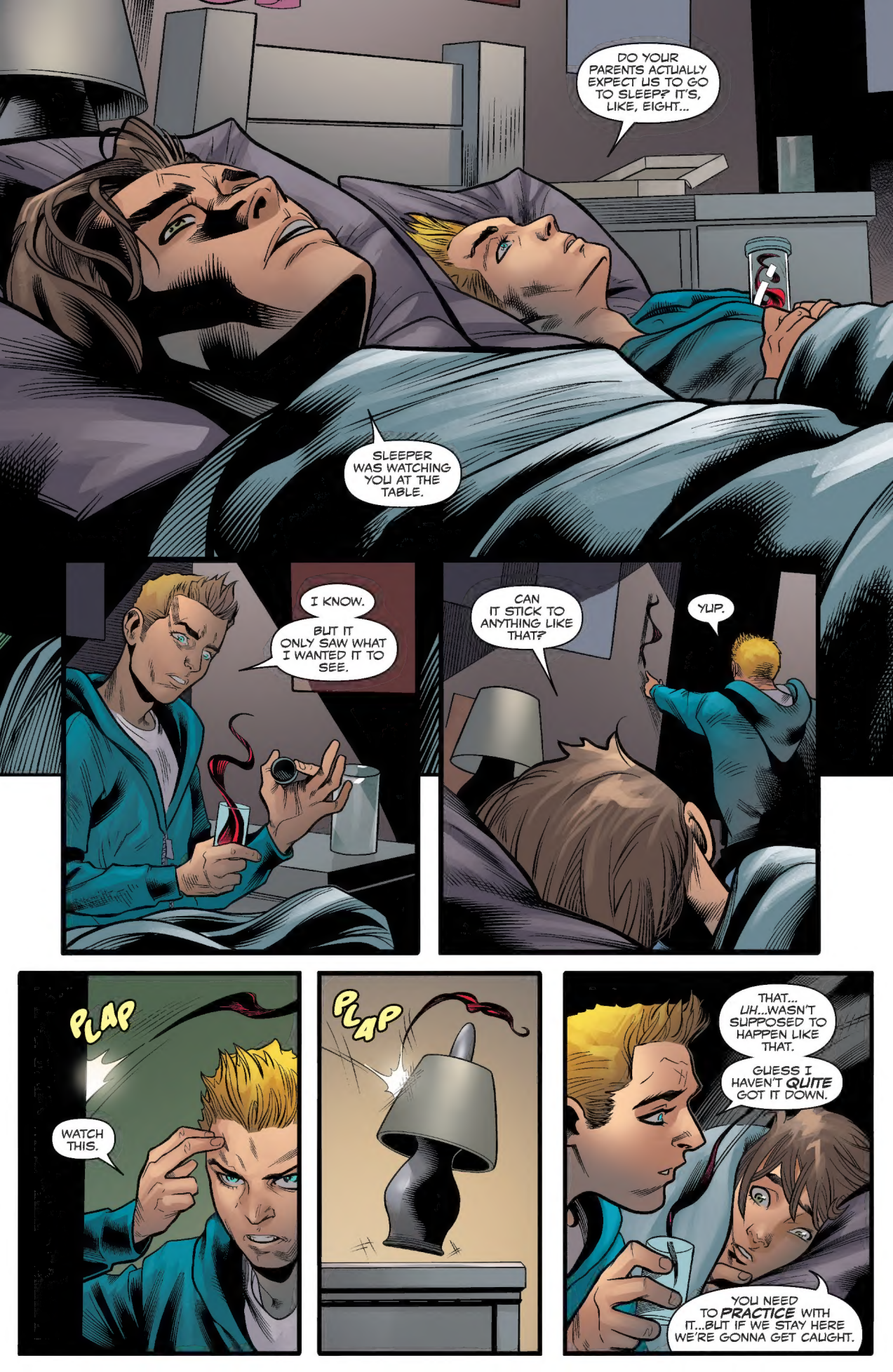
I'LL SHOW YOU.


HOW'D YOU FIND THIS?
I SPEND A LOT OF TIME TRAPPED HERE.
I'VE SEARCHED EVERY CORNER OF THIS PLACE.
DAD MADE THE CODE MY BIRTHDAY.
TAK TAK TAK TAK
Krrrrsssh

DAMN. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
DAD LOVES THE GOBLIN.
JUST LIKE EDDIE LOVES THE SYMBIOTE...
I'M TIRED OF EVERYONE KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME.
WELL... I'VE GOT A SECRET.
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
PROMISE NOT TO TELL ANYONE?
I PROMISE...
YOUR PARENTS WILL FREAK IF THEY FIND OUT...SO WILL SLEEPER. YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE. OKAY?
OKAY. OKAY.
REMEMBER HOW...I BLEW UP YOUR GRANDPA'S SYMBIOTE AND SAVED US?
I DIDN'T EXACTLY DESTROY EVERYTHING...

I KEPT A PIECE.
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE.
AND I CAN CONTROL IT WITH MY MIND.

LATER.
HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY AS LITTLE ROOMIES?
GOOD! WE DIDN'T DO MUCH. THIS IS A REALLY NICE PLACE YOU HAVE, MR. AND MRS. OSBORN.
THANK YOU, DYLAN. BUT, PLEASE, CALL US LIZ AND HARRY.
NOW, NORMIE... WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW DYLAN HOW TO PLAY WITH PAPIER-MÂCHÉ?
BECAUSE IT'S DUMB, MOM. DUMB AND BORING. WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO AND YOU KEEP US LOCKED IN HERE. LIKE WE'RE--
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, NORMIE. IT'S FOR YOUR PROTECTION... YOU BOTH NEED TO STAY PUT.
YOU'RE SAFER HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE...
THAT'S BULLCRAP, MOM!
DON'T TALK TO YOUR MOTHER THAT WAY!
OR WHAT--YOU'LL TURN INTO THE GOBLIN AGAIN?!
NORMIE!
OOPS!
SORRY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
IT'S OKAY, BUD. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SLEEPER! OFF THE TABLE!
I'M SORRY WE'RE YELLING. BEEN A LONG DAY...
WHY DON'T WE ALL CALL IT A NIGHT? I'LL MAKE WAFFLES IN THE MORNING.


DO YOUR PARENTS ACTUALLY EXPECT US TO GO TO SLEEP? IT'S, LIKE, EIGHT...
SLEEPER WAS WATCHING YOU AT THE TABLE.
I KNOW.
BUT IT ONLY SAW WHAT I WANTED IT TO SEE.
CAN IT STICK TO ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
YUP.
PLAP
WATCH THIS.
PLAP
THAT... UH...WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THAT.
GUESS I HAVEN'T QUITE GOT IT DOWN.
YOU NEED TO PRACTICE WITH IT...BUT IF WE STAY HERE WE'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT.

WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
STOLE YOUR DAD'S KEY CARD AT THE DINNER TABLE. YOU WANNA GO OUTSIDE?
OKAY, OKAY. I'M READY FOR THIS.
WE GOTTA WEAR THESE... SO NOBODY KNOWS IT'S US.
GOOD THINKING, BUD.
CAREFUL...CAREFUL! MY MOM SAID SHE PAID, LIKE, TEN GRAND FOR THIS TRACKER THING.
I'M NOT GONNA BREAK IT. JUST GONNA REMOVE IT.
AWESOME...
OKAY. MY PARENTS ALWAYS GO TO BED AROUND MIDNIGHT.
"WE'LL SNEAK OUT THEN.
"WE GOTTA BE EXTRA QUIET. I KNOW ALL THE CREAKY PARTS IN THE FLOOR, SO FOLLOW ME...
"I'LL MAKE SURE NOBODY SPOTS US."

IN MEMORIAM

TOM LYLE
1953-2019

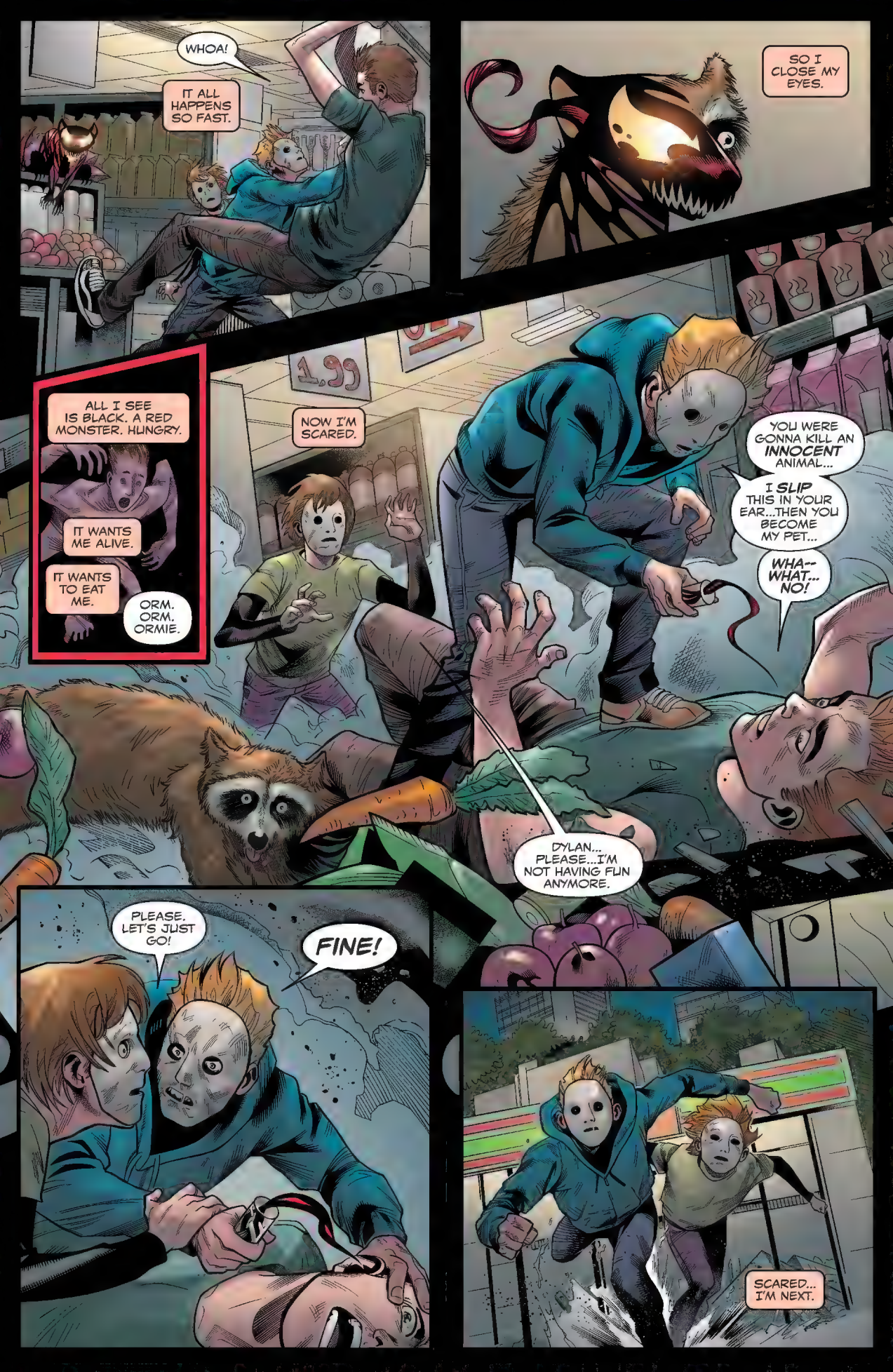
PHOTO COURTESY OF SCAD PHOTOGRAPHY

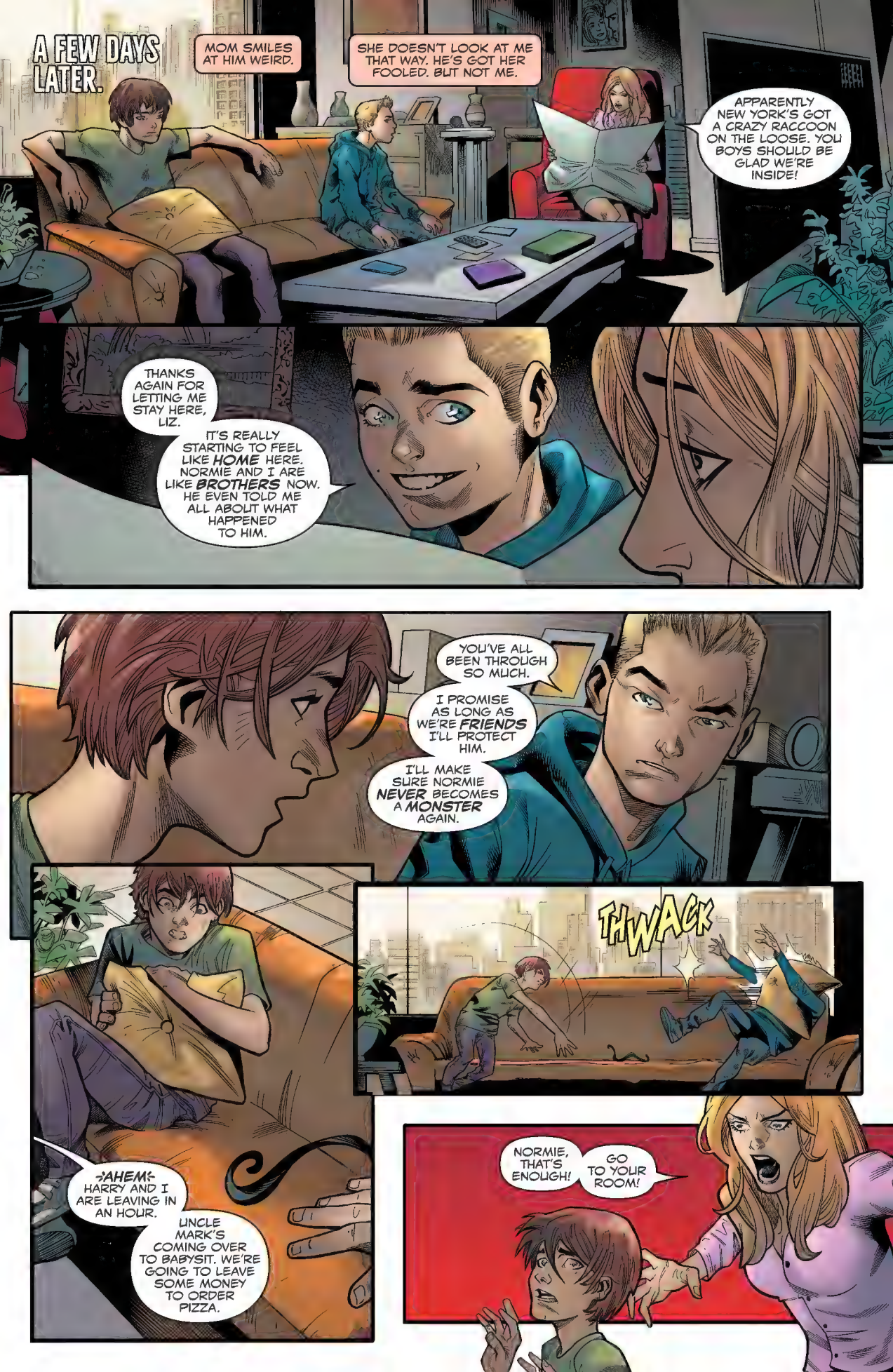
ESTEEMED ARTIST AND EDUCATOR

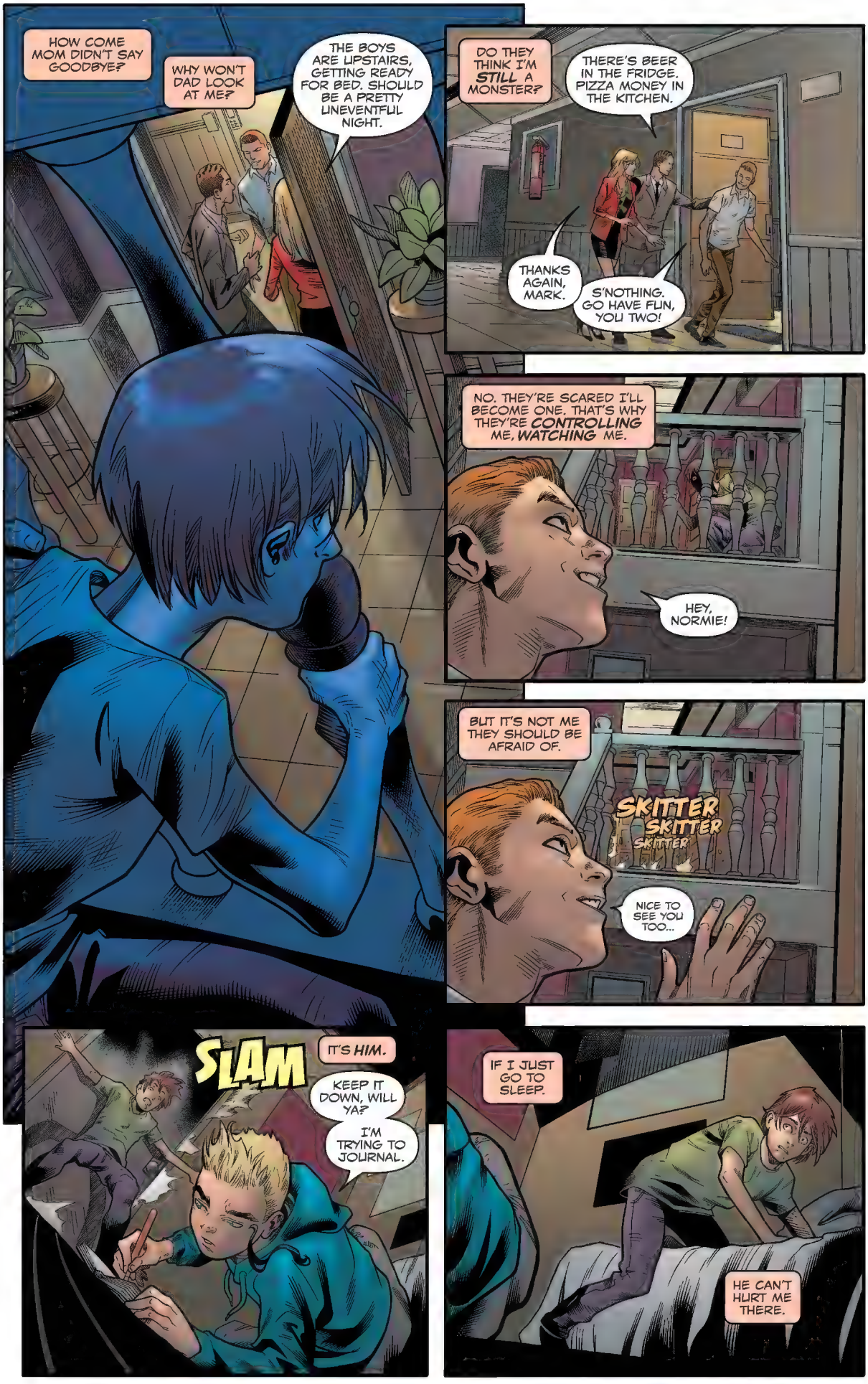
THANKS...
FOR WHAT?
FOR THIS. ALL OF THIS. I'M FINALLY HAVING FUN.
DON'T MENTION IT.
JUST GLAD YOU'RE NOT FREAKING OUT. SLEEPER WAS SCARED OF ME WHEN IT DISCOVERED I HAD POWERS. AND MOST PEOPLE ARE SCARED OF EDDIE...
MOST PEOPLE ARE BORING.
THIS THING IS OUR SECRET. THE VOICE IN MY HEAD TOLD ME I CAN MAKE IT DO ANYTHING. BUT IF ANYONE FINDS OUT...
I'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU. EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO.
THAT PIECE OF POP POP...IT'S ALIVE.
MAYBE WE CAN OPEN THE JAR IN THERE?
GOOD THINKING.
THIS IS FUN...AND I'M NOT SCARED. I'M NOT.
I JUST... WISH...WISH I HAD POWERS TOO.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING BETTER WE CAN DO WITH THIS THING...
DYLAN SAYS HE'S BEEN HEARING VOICES...BUT THAT JUST MEANS HE'S LIKE ME. PROBABLY JUST NIGHTMARES...
HEEEY, LITTLE DUDE...

...BET I CAN CONTROL THAT FURRY CRITTER WITH THIS.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THIS IS THE COOLEST. DYLAN AND ME...WE'RE THE SAME.
GRRRRRR.
IS THIS HOW SUPER HEROES FEEL?
EASY, EASY, MY FURRY DUDE.
LIKE THEY CAN DO ANYTHING?
GRRROOOOWL
EASY, FELLA. WE AIN'T GONNA HURT YA.
NOTHING CAN STOP US.
REEEE REEE!
NOBODY CAN TELL US NO.
GRAAAHHHHH.

HOLY...
IT--IT WORKED. I CAN...FEEL IT.
BECAUSE WE'RE FINALLY THE ONES IN CONTROL.
THIS IS THE BEST!
IT DOES EVERYTHING I TELL IT TO DO.
KIDS, THERE'S A RACCOON BEHIND YOU!
GET OUTTA THE WAY! IT'S PROBABLY FERAL!
DON'T TOUCH HIM!
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE SPECIAL.
MOVE, KID! THAT'LL COME OUTTA MY PAYCHECK!
I'M GONNA KILL THAT THING!
DON'T. TOUCH. HIM.


WHOA!
IT ALL HAPPENS SO FAST.
SO I CLOSE MY EYES.
ALL I SEE IS BLACK. A RED MONSTER. HUNGRY.
IT WANTS ME ALIVE.
IT WANTS TO EAT ME.
ORM. ORM. ORMIE.
NOW I'M SCARED.
YOU WERE GONNA KILL AN INNOCENT ANIMAL...
I SLIP THIS IN YOUR EAR...THEN YOU BECOME MY PET...
WHA--WHAT... NO!
DYLAN... PLEASE...I'M NOT HAVING FUN ANYMORE.
PLEASE. LET'S JUST GO!
FINE!
SCARED... I'M NEXT.


A FEW DAYS LATER.
MOM SMILES AT HIM WEIRD.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY. HE'S GOT HER FOOLED. BUT NOT ME.
APPARENTLY NEW YORK'S GOT A CRAZY RACCOON ON THE LOOSE. YOU BOYS SHOULD BE GLAD WE'RE INSIDE!
THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME STAY HERE, LIZ.
IT'S REALLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE HOME HERE. NORMIE AND I ARE LIKE BROTHERS NOW. HE EVEN TOLD ME ALL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.
YOU'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH.
I PROMISE AS LONG AS WE'RE FRIENDS I'LL PROTECT HIM.
I'LL MAKE SURE NORMIE NEVER BECOMES A MONSTER AGAIN.
THWACK
-AHEM- HARRY AND I ARE LEAVING IN AN HOUR.
UNCLE MARK'S COMING OVER TO BABYSIT. WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE SOME MONEY TO ORDER PIZZA.
NORMIE, THAT'S ENOUGH!
GO TO YOUR ROOM!


HOW COME MOM DIDN'T SAY GOODBYE?
WHY WON'T DAD LOOK AT ME?
THE BOYS ARE UPSTAIRS, GETTING READY FOR BED. SHOULD BE A PRETTY UNEVENTFUL NIGHT.
DO THEY THINK I'M STILL A MONSTER?
THERE'S BEER IN THE FRIDGE. PIZZA MONEY IN THE KITCHEN.
THANKS AGAIN, MARK.
S'NOTHING. GO HAVE FUN, YOU TWO!
NO. THEY'RE SCARED I'LL BECOME ONE. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CONTROLLING ME, WATCHING ME.
HEY, NORMIE!
BUT IT'S NOT ME THEY SHOULD BE AFRAID OF.
SKITTER SKITTER SKITTER
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO...
SLAM
IT'S HIM.
KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YA?
I'M TRYING TO JOURNAL.
IF I JUST GO TO SLEEP.
HE CAN'T HURT ME THERE.

LATER...
YES. I SEE IT. I UNDERSTAND.
WHOZEWHA?
D-DYLAN?
IT IS MY JOB TO THREAD THE NEEDLE BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS.
THE NEW AND THE OLD ARE ONE IN ME.
I WILL SPREAD YOUR THICK BLACK LIMBS UPON THE WORLD THAT SLEEPS.
I WILL DO IT ALL FOR YOU.
I WILL ONLY REST WHEN WE ALL SING YOUR NAME.
KNULL.
I AM ALREADY WHAT I WAS MEANT TO BECOME. I KNOW THIS--
FOOOF
NO. NO. NO. NO.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

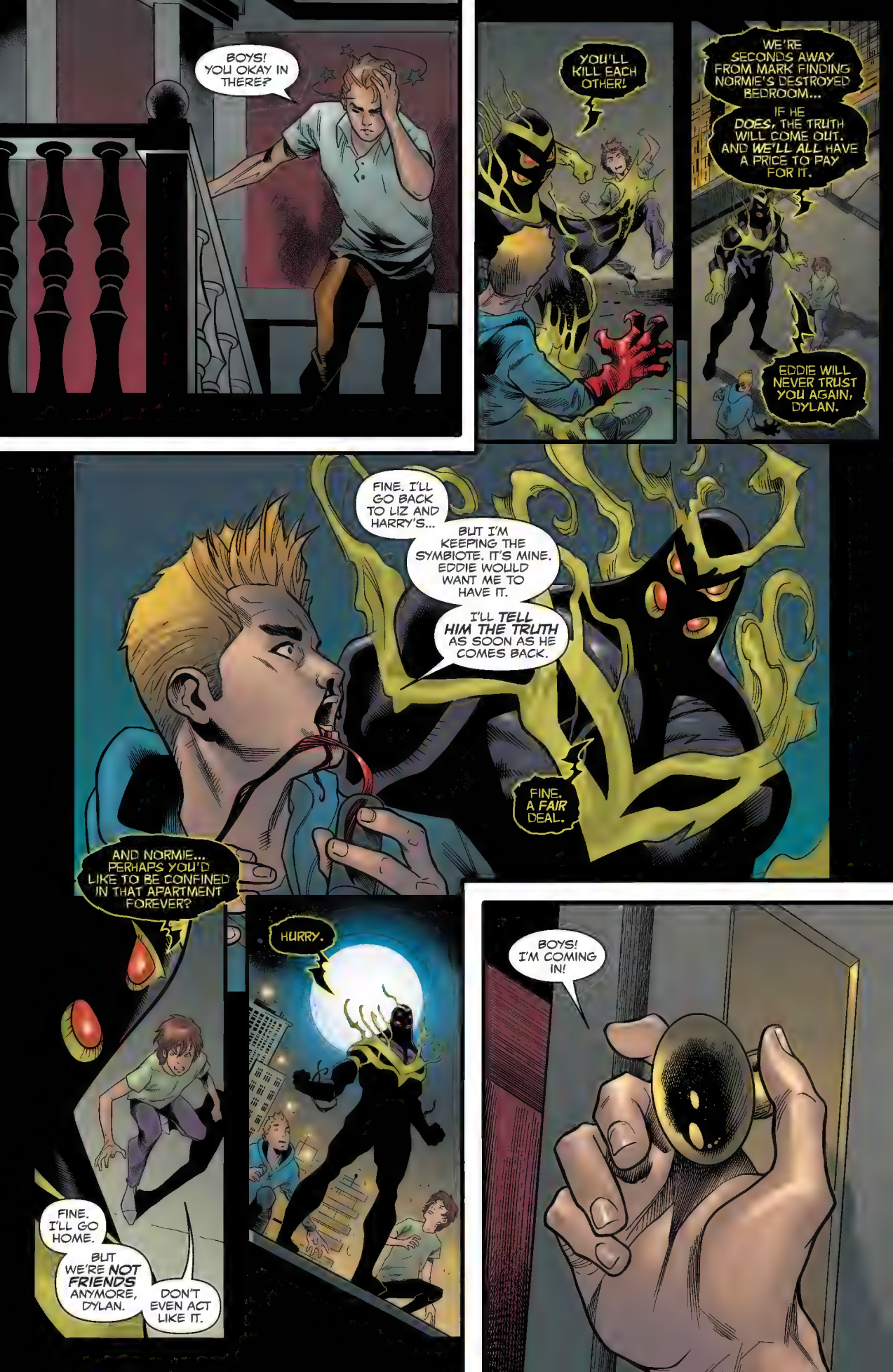
HE'S... GONE?
HE CAN'T BE...LEFT ALL HIS STUFF.
WHO THE HECK WAS HE TALKING TO?
I NEED TO GO GET UNCLE MARK.
BUT IF HE COMES BACK WITH THAT WORM THING... HE COULD MAKE ME...
IF I SHOW THIS TO MOM AND DAD...THEY'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.
I see an etched man. He's in my mind. He's made of black. His skin is white. His face is...not a face at all. He moves in the shadows of the world. But lives in my dreams. Eddie's afraid of him. But I'm not...
He just sits there motionless. As if keepin
guard over me. Sometim
a black knife drops fr
his hand. That's whe
begin to hear him. I d
fear him. For he is my
~~and Spirit. My father.~~
God.

PUT MY JOURNAL DOWN. YOU BETTER NOT BE READING IT.
I'M FINE.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU.
YOU KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT...MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU...
MAYBE YOU MISS YOUR POP POP, HUH?
ALL I GOTTA DO IS SLIP THIS IN YOUR EAR.
BOOM. YOU'RE GOBLIN CHILDE AGAIN.
MAYBE THEN YOUR DAD WILL TALK TO YOU.
I'M TELLING UNCLE MARK!
IT WAS JUST A HARMLESS PRANK! YOU'RE BLOWING THIS ALL OUTTA PROPORTION!
YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WALL. YOU'RE LOSING YOUR MIND!
THUD THUD
ZZZZZ
GIMME MY JOURNAL!
NO! YOU'RE CRAZY!
I'M.
NOT.

CRAZY.

KRRSH
AHHH!!!
RAAAHHH!!!

HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
ENOUGH!
YOU'VE EVADED ME FOR TOO LONG, DYLAN. I KNEW YOU WERE HIDING SOMETHING.
BUT A PIECE OF NORMAN OSBORN'S SYMBIOTE... HOW COULD YOU BE SO RECKLESS?
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--
SILENCE. YOU MUST STOP CONTROLLING IT AT ONCE. LET ME ABSORB IT.
WE CAN END THIS RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T WANNA LISTEN TO THE VOICE IN MY HEAD.
...ORM...IE... HURT...HIM...OR... THEY'LL...KILL... YOU.
MAKE... HIM...CRY... MAKE...HIM... PAY...
...MAKE... HIM... SCARED.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
YOU HURT POP POP!
AHHHHHHH!


BOYS! YOU OKAY IN THERE?
YOU'LL KILL EACH OTHER!
WE'RE SECONDS AWAY FROM MARK FINDING NORMIE'S DESTROYED BEDROOM...
IF HE DOES, THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT. AND WE'LL ALL HAVE A PRICE TO PAY FOR IT.
EDDIE WILL NEVER TRUST YOU AGAIN, DYLAN.
FINE. I'LL GO BACK TO LIZ AND HARRY'S...
BUT I'M KEEPING THE SYMBIOTE. IT'S MINE. EDDIE WOULD WANT ME TO HAVE IT.
I'LL TELL HIM THE TRUTH AS SOON AS HE COMES BACK.
FINE. A FAIR DEAL.
AND NORMIE... PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO BE CONFINED IN THAT APARTMENT FOREVER?
HURRY.
FINE. I'LL GO HOME.
BUT WE'RE NOT FRIENDS ANYMORE, DYLAN.
DON'T EVEN ACT LIKE IT.
BOYS! I'M COMING IN!

WE WERE PLAYING BASEBALL...
NORMIE HIT IT A LITTLE TOO HARD.
YOUR MOM SAID YOU'D BE A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY BUT...WOW. NEVER A DULL MOMENT 'ROUND HERE.
HERE I WAS THINKIN' SOMETHING AWFUL HAPPENED.
GET SOME SLEEP. I'VE MELTED THE WINDOW SHUT FOR NOW, BUT WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT IN THE MORNING WITH YOUR PARENTS...
HE'LL BE OUTTA HERE SOON.
JUST A FEW MORE DAYS WITH THE MONSTER...
THEY'LL TREAT YOU LIKE AN ANIMAL
YES...

STAN'S SOAPBOX
FEBRUARY 1980

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Bear with me, gang. It's philosophy time again! I was having a discussion the other day with a professor pal of mine from U.C.L.A. about the so-called "generation gap," and I laid a few personal opinions on him that I'd like to share with you.

First, we're never gonna solve the generation gap till we stop seeking the wrong answers to the wrong questions. Every one yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. It's the human condition that changes—it's the environment! What's happened to us is, the *world* has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunky!

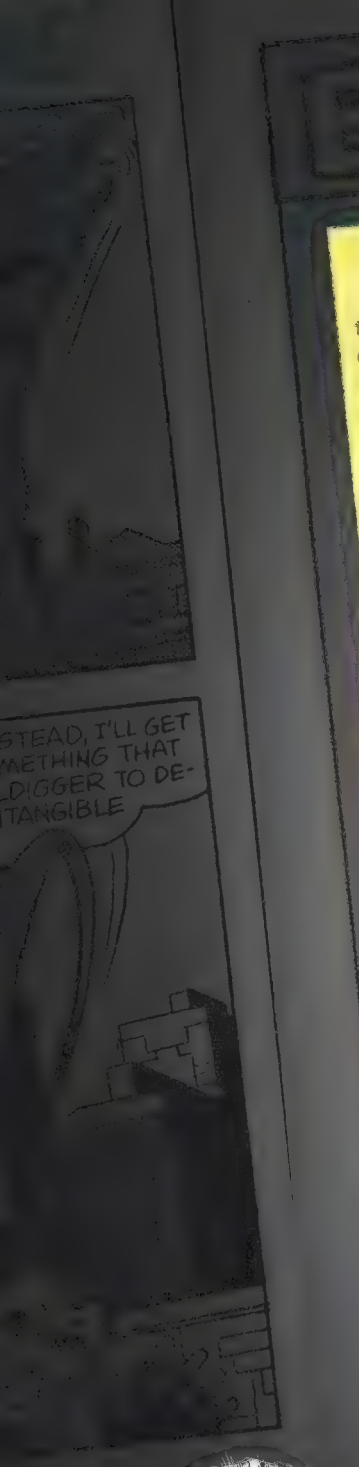
Here, this'll show what I mean. Say you've got two homes, a large country estate and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast on your estate, but who cares? No one can hear it. You're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you! You haven't changed. You're the same yoyo in both places. But the conditions are different!

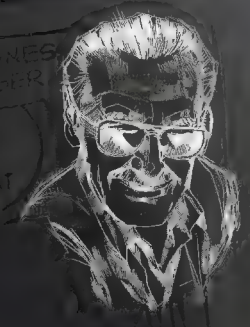
The fact is, young people are the same as ever. the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, nutty, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes *they've* always been —and which you'll soon become! Nothing's changed but the labels. Which leads to point #2 —

None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship, and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for Indians, Chinese, Russians, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Protestants, blacks, browns, whites, and green skinned Hulks. So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the "other" guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you!

Excelsior!

Stan





STAN LEE
FOREVER

☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE
Keeping the secret of
our hats, but it stars the
Impossible Man! Nuff said!

☐ SHOGUN WARRIORS
Shoguns face the
Demonicus!

☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #23
man is caught in the
the Gamesman!

☐ ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #3
ing of - FIREFALL!

☐ MACHINE MAN #13
vs. The Mysterious
Khan.

☐ SPIDER-MAN #201
Stalks Peter Parker!

☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #242
caught up in the mind
of the Manipulator!

☐ THOR #282
strange dimension to
of Odin!

☐ MICRONAUTS #14
his native planet, Kaliklak,
rebellion against his
WARTSTAFF!

☐ DR. STRANGE #39
pursued by Dormammu's
Strange goes to Paris
minions of Baron Mordo!

☐ GHOST RIDER #41
memory, Johnny Blaze is
the demon within him!

☐ FUN & GAMES #8
Games. Outrageous fun!

☐ BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
More adventures of the
Scavenge World. Will Starbuck
ped there forever?

☐ HULK #244
Colossus in "It Lives!"

☐ AVENGERS #192
Inferno! He was born in the
blast furnace! And he lives

☐ CONAN #107
and sorcery action
barbarian of all!

☐ MARVEL TALES #112
Amazing Spider-Man
Man and the Punisher
the Tarantula!

☐ X-MEN #130
DAZZLER! Soon to
Marvel series!

☐ POWERMAN AND IRON
Thunderbolt
Marko attacks!
in Luke Cage's

☐ FANTASTIC
turn of Blastaar

☐ MARVEL
Man and the
the Maximus

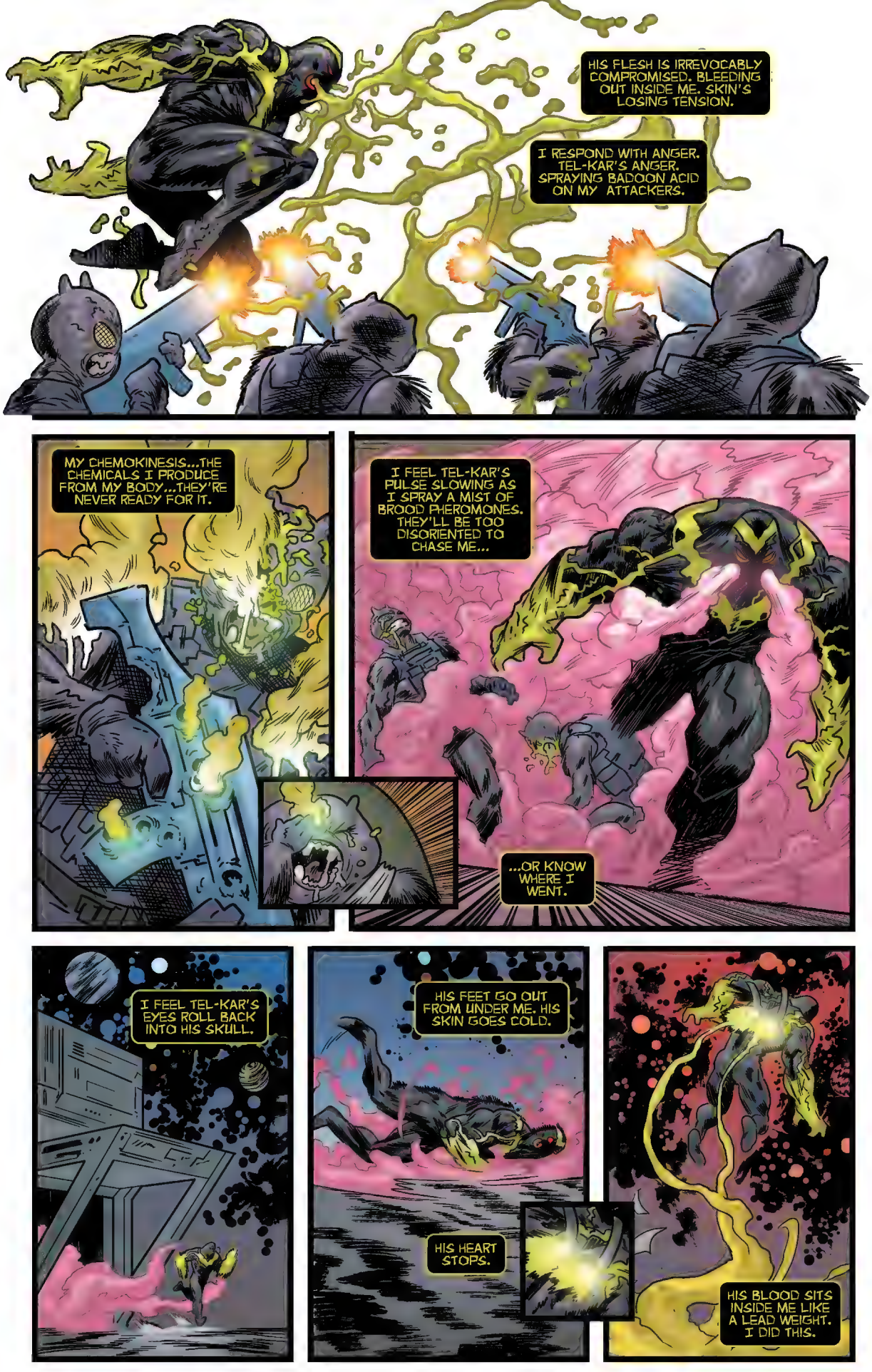
THEY'LL CAGE YOU.
THEY'LL STARVE YOU OUT.
THEY'LL STRANGLE YOU.
THEY'LL KILL YOU WITH KNIVES.
THEY'LL KILL YOU WITH TRAPS.
THEY'LL KILL YOU WITH POISONS.
THEY'LL KILL YOU WITH GUNS.
THEY'LL BURN YOU ALIVE.
UNLESS YOU KILL THEM FIRST.
TO BE CONTINUED...

I KILLED IT.
JUST LIKE YOU ASKED. NOW, HOW ABOUT WHAT YOU PROMISED ME?
SPEAK PLAINLY, SYMBIOTE WARRIOR.
WE SHALL GET TO YOUR REWARD IN DUE TIME.
SHOW US THE FACE BENEATH SLEEPER. LET US LOOK UPON THE MAN WHO LIBERATED OUR PLANET FROM THE DREADED LAMARCHE DEMON.
THE KING WISHES TO LOOK UPON YOU.
PLEASE, I'D RATHER NOT.
DO NOT DENY US OUR CHAMPION!
FINE...
GASP!
THEN THE RUMORS CARRIED THROUGH THE COSMIC WINDS ARE TRUE...
YOU ARE NO KREE SOLDIER!
MERELY A PUPPETEER!

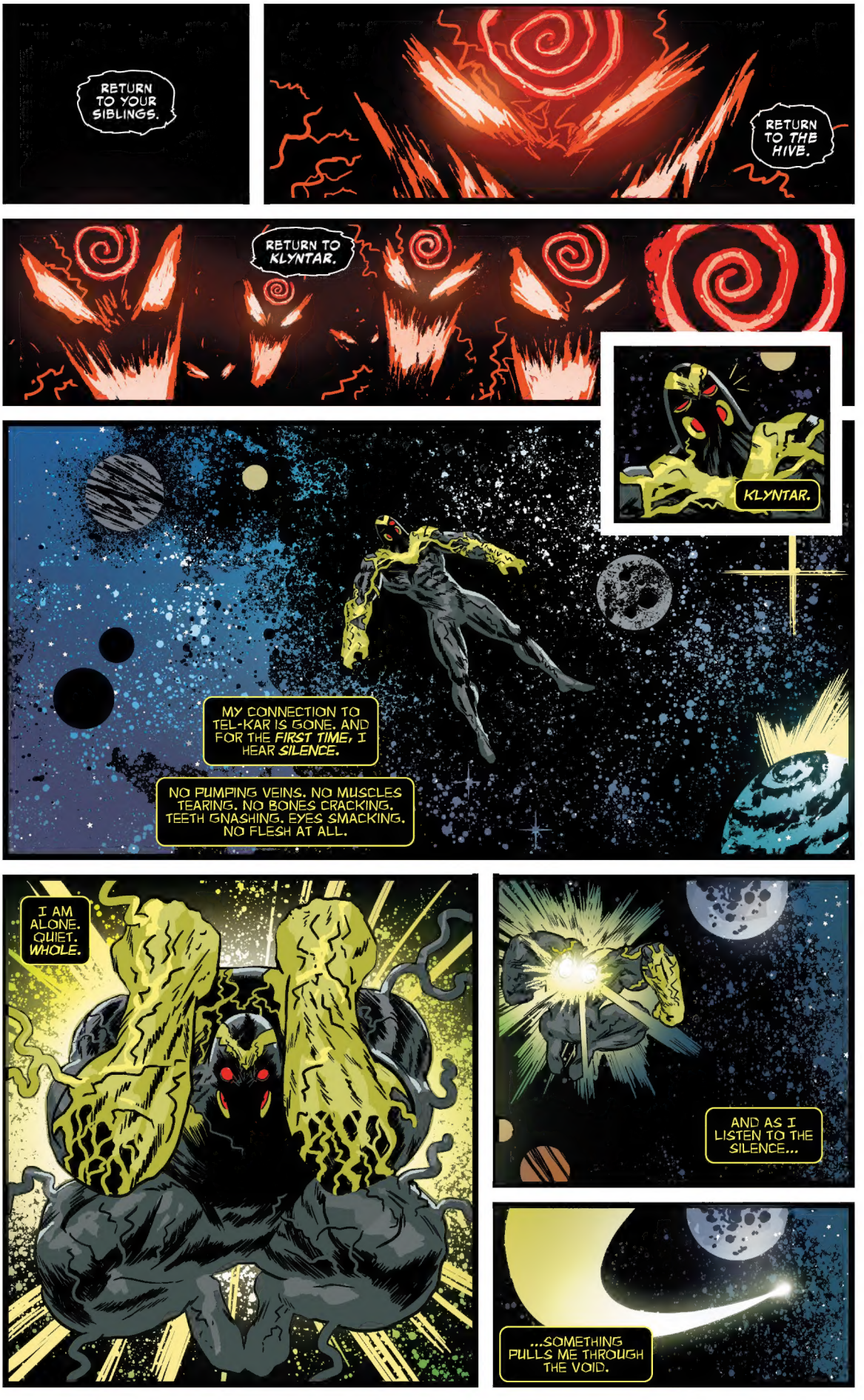
THE PUTREFACTION OF TEL-KAR

ZAC THOMPSON WRITER
JUAN GEDEON ARTIST
RAIN BEREDO COLOR ARTIST
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

FIRE!
GET ME THAT SYMBIOTE!
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
HURGLARRRRK!
I FEEL THE SHOT RIP THROUGH TEL-KAR'S VOCAL CORDS.
A RINGING SOUND BOUNCES DOWN HIS NECK, SIGNIFYING THE BEGINNING OF HIS MUTINY.
HIS BODY AGAINST MINE.


HIS FLESH IS IRREVOCABLY COMPROMISED. BLEEDING OUT INSIDE ME. SKIN'S LOSING TENSION.
I RESPOND WITH ANGER. TEL-KAR'S ANGER. SPRAYING BADOON ACID ON MY ATTACKERS.
MY CHEMOKINESIS...THE CHEMICALS I PRODUCE FROM MY BODY...THEY'RE NEVER READY FOR IT.
I FEEL TEL-KAR'S PULSE SLOWING AS I SPRAY A MIST OF BROOD PHEROMONES. THEY'LL BE TOO DISORIENTED TO CHASE ME...
...OR KNOW WHERE I WENT.
I FEEL TEL-KAR'S EYES ROLL BACK INTO HIS SKULL.
HIS FEET GO OUT FROM UNDER ME. HIS SKIN GOES COLD.
HIS HEART STOPS.
HIS BLOOD SITS INSIDE ME LIKE A LEAD WEIGHT. I DID THIS.

THE FRIGID BLACK INSTANTLY BRINGS THE DEATH CHILL.
HIS BODY COOLS. HIS BLOOD CONGEALS. IT ALL HAPPENS SO FAST.
ADVANCED DECOMPOSITION SETS IN WITHOUT WARNING.
HE LEAKS INTO ME AND EVEN THOUGH I WELCOME THE NUTRIENTS...MY FORM REBELS...
WITH HIS FLUIDS COME...
...MEMORIES?
WE YEARN FOR YOU... SLEEPER.
COME HOME.


RETURN TO YOUR SIBLINGS.
RETURN TO THE HIVE.
RETURN TO KLYNTAR.
KLYNTAR.
MY CONNECTION TO TEL-KAR IS GONE. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HEAR SILENCE.
NO PUMPING VEINS. NO MUSCLES TEARING. NO BONES CRACKING. TEETH GNASHING. EYES SMACKING. NO FLESH AT ALL.
I AM ALONE. QUIET. WHOLE.
AND AS I LISTEN TO THE SILENCE...
...SOMETHING PULLS ME THROUGH THE VOID.

DAYS GO BY.
IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE DEATH OF A MAN RESTS ON MY SHOULDERS.
AND YET, I FEEL INDIFFERENT. TEL-KAR WAS NO REAL HOST. HE WAS NOT KNOWN TO ME. WE SHARED NO BOND.
I NEED FLESH TO BE UNDERSTOOD. I AM STRONGER WITH A HOST. BUT I AM NOT MY BODY. MY BODY IS NOT ME.
I AM WHOLE. I AM ALONE. I AM KLYNTAR.
AND I'M FINALLY...
...HOME.
THE END!

VENOM

#23

HEY, VENOMANIACS! WE'VE SURVIVED THE MAYHEM OF "ABSOLUTE CARNAGE" AND ARE RUNNING THROUGH THE JUNGLES OF "VENOM ISLAND"! THERE'S STILL SO MUCH MORE TO COME IN THE WORLD OF VENOM! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!